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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,663	11/25/2003	Wei-Lun Lo	MSFT-2751/304827.1	5635
41505	7590	05/17/2006	EXAMINER	
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION) ONE LIBERTY PLACE - 46TH FLOOR PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			AHLUWALIA, NAVNEET K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2166	

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/721,663	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LO, WEI-LUN	
	<b>Examiner</b> Navneet K. Ahluwalia	<b>Art Unit</b> 2166	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/11/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The application has been examined. Claims 1 – 20 are pending in this office action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ingersoll et al. ('Ingersoll' herein after) (US 2004/0025117 A1) further in view of Hind et al. ('Hind' herein after) (US 2002/0161801 A1).

With respect to claim 1,

Ingersoll discloses a method of converting between a flat file and an XML file, comprising the steps of:

- receiving the flat file in a native format (paragraph 0021 lines 1 – 12, Ingersoll);
- translating characters of the native format into tokens (paragraph 0021 lines 12 – 19, Ingersoll);
- parsing the tokens (paragraph 0035 lines 18 – 22, Ingersoll); and

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- producing an XML file by converting the first native format to an XML format with the use of at least one annotated schema comprising a model of a flat file (paragraph 0030 lines 1 – 18, Ingersoll).

Ingersoll however does not explicitly disclose the tokens and the annotations as claimed.

Hind teaches the tokens and the annotations as claimed in paragraph 0097 lines 13 – 21, Hind.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both the references are in the same field of conversion of documents for interoperability and exchange. Furthermore, the conversion into a standard format would decrease the overhead of routing and extracting information (paragraph 0020, Hind).

4. Claims 2 – 8 are rejected on the same rationale as claim 1. The limitations are cited below.

With respect to claim 2,

Hind teaches the method of claim 1, wherein translating characters comprises generating tokens for one or more of a delimiter, a tag and a value (paragraph 0065 and 0067, Hind).

With respect to claim 3,

Ingersoll discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one annotated schema comprises an XML schema with annotations (paragraph 0004, Ingersoll).

With respect to claim 4,

Ingersoll discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one annotated schema defines the flat file model (paragraph 0028 lines 11 – 16, Ingersoll).

With respect to claim 5,

Hind discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the native record type has one of a delimited format and a positional format (paragraph 0051 where the XML is inherently in a delimited and positional format).

With respect to claim 6,

Hind teaches the method of claim 5, wherein each format comprises an optional tag for identifying a record (paragraph 0006 lines 19 – 24, Hind).

With respect to claim 7,

Hind teaches the method of claim 6, wherein the tag provides context for use with parsing the tokens (paragraph 0059, Hind).

With respect to claim 8,

Hind teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising converting the XML file to a second native file by serializing (paragraph 0049 and 0091).

With respect to claim 9,

Ingersoll discloses a machine-readable medium having machine-readable instructions for performing a method of converting between a flat file and an XML file, comprising the steps of:

- receiving flat file in a native format (paragraph 0021 lines 1 – 12, Ingersoll);
- translating characters of the native format input into tokens (paragraph 0021 lines 12 – 19, Ingersoll); and
- parsing the tokens (paragraph 0035 lines 18 – 22, Ingersoll) to produce an XML file by converting a first native format to an XML format with the use of at least one annotated schema comprising a model of a flat file format (paragraph 0030 lines 1 – 18, Ingersoll).

Ingersoll however does not explicitly disclose the tokens and the annotations as claimed.

Hind teaches the tokens and the annotations as claimed in paragraph 0097 lines 13 – 21, Hind.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both the references are in the same field of conversion of documents for interoperability

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and exchange. Furthermore, the conversion into a standard format would decrease the overhead of routing and extracting information (paragraph 0020, Hind).

5. Claims 10 – 15 are rejected on the same rationale as claim 9. The limitations are cited below.

With respect to claim 10,

Ingersoll discloses the machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the at least one annotated schema comprises XML schemas with annotations (paragraph 0004, Ingersoll).

With respect to claim 11,

Ingersoll discloses the machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the at least one annotated schema defines the model (paragraph 0028 lines 11 – 16, Ingersoll).

With respect to claim 12,

Hind discloses the machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the model has one of a delimited format and a positional format (paragraph 0051 where the XML is inherently in a delimited and positional format).

With respect to claim 13,

Hind teaches the machine-readable medium of claim 12, wherein each format comprises an optional tag which helps identify a record (paragraph 0006 lines 19 – 24, Hind).

With respect to claim 14,

Hind teaches the machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the tag provides context for use with parsing the tokens (paragraph 0059, Hind).

With respect to claim 15,

Hind teaches the machine-readable medium of claim 9, further comprising converting the XML file to a second native file by serializing (paragraph 0049 and 0091).

With respect to claim 16,

Ingersoll discloses a system for transferring files as part of a workflow comprising: a processor, supporting hardware and software functions of the system;

- an input device for receiving a flat file in a native format (paragraph 0021 lines 1 – 12, Ingersoll);;
- a text reader and tokenizer for reading and translating flat file characters of the native format input into tokens (paragraph 0021 lines 12 – 19, Ingersoll);
- a parsing device which converts the tokens to characters in an XML file with the use of at least one annotated schema comprising a model of the native format (paragraph 0035 lines 18 – 22, Ingersoll); and



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- an output device for transmitting converted files; wherein the processor executes instructions supporting file format conversion using the parser to convert files according to a workflow (paragraph 0030 lines 1 – 18, Ingersoll).

Ingersoll however does not explicitly disclose the tokens and the annotations as claimed.

Hind teaches the tokens and the annotations as claimed in paragraph 0097 lines 13 – 21, Hind.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because both the references are in the same field of conversion of documents for interoperability and exchange. Furthermore, the conversion into a standard format would decrease the overhead of routing and extracting information (paragraph 0020, Hind).

6. Claims 17 – 20 are rejected on the same rationale as claim 16. The limitations are cited below.

With respect to claim 17,

Hind teaches the system of claim 16, further comprising a serializer device which converts an XML file format back into a native format (paragraph 0049 and 0091).

With respect to claim 18,

Ingersoll discloses the system of claim 16, wherein the at least one annotated schema comprises an XML schema with annotations (paragraph 0004, Ingersoll).

With respect to claim 19,

Hind discloses the system of claim 16, wherein the native format has one of a delimited format and a positional format (paragraph 0051 where the XML is inherently in a delimited and positional format).

With respect to claim 20,

Hind teaches the system of claim 19, wherein each format comprises an optional tag for identifying a record (paragraph 0006 lines 19 – 24, Hind).

**Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navneet K. Ahluwalia whose telephone number is 571-272-5636. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam T. Hosain can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Navneet*

Navneet K. Ahluwalia  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2166

*Mohammad Ali*

MOHAMMAD ALI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Dated: 05/12/2006